



Approved on 05-11-04

**King County
Mental Health Advisory Board Meeting**
Tuesday, March 9, 2004
4:30 – 6:30 p.m.
Exchange Building, Conference Room 6A

Members Present: Ron Sterling, Howard Miller, Jack Fuller, Eleanor Owen, Joshua Freed (awaiting council confirmation), Helen Nilon, Gwendolyn Williams

Members Absent: Jim Nobles (excused), Freda Monroe (unexcused), Clifford Thurston (leave of absence), Shauna Cheney (leave of absence), Melody James (awaiting Executive's appointment)

Guests Present: Pamela Pratt (Board applicant), Alberto Gallego (Board applicant), Linda Brown (KCASAAB), Carolann Freedman (Board applicant), Michael Haan (awaiting Council confirmation)

Staff Present: Amnon Shoenfeld, Jean Robertson, Geoff Miller

I. WELCOME & INTRODUCTION

Howard Miller opened the meeting at 4:40 p.m. Introductions took place.

II. APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY 10, 2004 BOARD MINUTES

It was suggested that a statement be added to the February 10th minutes saying that Pamela Pratt requested that the board take action on her nomination.

A motion was made and seconded to accept the February 10, 2004 minutes with the above addition. Motion carried unanimously.

III. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

A. Introduction of Board Applicant, Carolann Freedman

Howard Miller welcomed board applicant, Carolann Freedman, to the meeting. Carolann was interviewed by the Nominations Committee prior to today's board meeting. Howard said that Carolann has excellent credentials, and he feels she would make a wonderful addition to the board. Carolann introduced herself to the board; she said she is a therapist in private practice, and she also does some HR consulting.

B. Joint Board Meeting in April 2004

The joint King County Mental Health Advisory Board (CMHAB) and King County Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Administrative Board (KCASAAB) meeting will be on Thursday,

April 15, 2004 from 12:00 noon to 1:30 p.m. This meeting will be hosted by the KCASAAB, and they would be glad to have the meeting in the Exchange Building, rather than at the Dutch Shisler Sobering Service Center, if it would be easier for KCMHAB members to attend. It was decided that the joint meeting will be held in the Exchange Building, conference room 6A. The main agenda item will be a presentation by Nancy Whitney on Fetal Alcohol Syndrome.

C. Removal Hearing

Howard said that the removal of Freda Monroe from the MHAB was discussed in today's Executive Session meeting. Freda was a valuable member of the board, but it has been several months since she has attended a board meeting. There have been several attempts to contact Freda, and to date, the board has not received a response from her. Board members voted unanimously in favor of removing Freda Monroe from the MHAB.

D. Other Items

Howard said that he plans to attend the Taking Health Care Home (THCH) initiative focus group meetings. Amnon Shoenfeld said that the THCH initiative is a federal grant received by the City of Seattle. It is designed to make progress towards ending chronic homelessness. This process will be managed by Tina Shamseldin, City of Seattle, and she will work to collect information about the nature of the problem, identify barriers, and determine specific steps that should be taken to reach the goal. Anyone interested is invited to attend the following meetings:

- Tuesday, March 16, 2004 from 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. at Community Psychiatric Clinic
- Friday, March 19, 2004 from 10:30 – 12:30 p.m. at Downtown Emergency Service Center

IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Legislative Advocacy & Public Affairs Committee – Eleanor Owen

Eleanor Owen said that the last Legislative Advocacy & Public Affairs Committee meeting was not well attended. At this meeting, Amnon gave the committee the following legislative updates: chemical dependency seems to be untouched, with only the addition of a mentoring program; the continuation of TASC funding is still unknown; methadone match funding did not make it into either budget; ratable reduction is being restored with FMAP increased funds in both budgets, but there is a difference in how the funds are administered between House and Senate; State Hospital bed reductions were prevented in the budget, however the Program for Adaptive Living Skills (PALS) was not included, but hopefully it will be included in the budget conference sessions; and most bills died due to such a short session. Eleanor said that bill 2469 would have prepared the state for purchasing prescription drugs from Canada. This bill passed House, but died in Senate. The Parity bill got through the House, but died in Senate. The next MHAB Legislative committee meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 24, 2004 at 4:00 – 5:30 p.m. in conference room 6B of the Exchange Building.

B. Nominations Update – Amber Hebert

Amber has left a message for Rick Ybarra in the Executive's office regarding the status of Melody James and Michael Haan's appointments. Rick has not yet returned Amber's call.

Joshua Freed is scheduled to appear before the Law, Justice and Human Services Committee on March 18, 2004. Howard plans to attend with Joshua.

Helen Nilon said that recommendations will be made at the May MHAB meeting regarding the nomination of Orisade Awodola and Alberto Gallego. More information will be available on Pam Pratt at the May meeting also.

Howard said that nominations for new MHAB Chair and Vice Chair will be made at the May meeting. Board members can propose nominees in addition to those presented by the Nominations Committee.

C. Quality Council – Ron Sterling

Ron Sterling distributed a handout regarding upcoming forums. The first forum is sponsored by NAMI Greater Seattle and the King County Quality Council (QC). It will be held on Tuesday, March 16 from 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. at St. John Lutheran Church, 5515 Phinney Ave. N, Seattle. The second forum will be sponsored by NAMI South King County and the King County QC. It will be held on Tuesday, April 20 from 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. at Valley Cities Counseling and Consultation, 2704 I Street NE, Auburn. All board members are invited to attend these forums. At these forums, providers, family members, consumers, law enforcement, and the general public will be encouraged to discuss what is and what is not working in King County. Ron hopes that there is good turnout at these forums. Summaries of these forums will be analyzed in future QC meetings.

D. Recovery Initiatives Committee – Eleanor Owen

Eleanor said that the Recovery Initiatives Committee would like to send a letter of protest to the governor, House Appropriations committee, and DVR regarding vocational services funding. This has not yet gone through the QC. At this point, the committee has decided not to act on the recovery ordinance. The committee feels the problem is that the ordinance has been in effect for four years, and the agencies have not made a shift in their employment skill building programs. Jean Robertson said that the County has an internal workgroup that is looking at ways to strengthen recovery wordage in policies & procedures and contracts. She said that the Recovery Initiatives Committee may want to consider having someone from the internal workgroup participate on the committee. The next Recovery Initiatives Committee meeting will be held on Monday, March 22, 2004 from 2:00 – 3:00 p.m. in conference room 6C of the Exchange Building. The Recovery Initiatives Committee would love to have more members; some outreach will be done at the NAMI/QC forums. Helen Nilon said that Janny Becker is interested in working with this committee.

V. STAFF REPORT – Jean Robertson

Jean said that it is a priority to move individuals out of supervised living and into supported housing. The Regional Support Network (RSN) sent providers a list containing names of clients who the RSN identified as being ready to move from supervised living and into supported housing. Providers were asked to make these transitions within 90 days. This request raised several concerns for providers. A meeting was held last Friday to address some of the concerns.

It was agreed upon that the RSN will continue to focus on the individuals identified, and providers will come up with a transition plan with timelines and goals. Jean thinks that this will be a good process for the entire system to better understand how to serve a challenging population in a new way and move people to more normalized living environments. MHAB members expressed the importance of providing skills to the individuals being moved in order for them to be productive. Jean said that there needs to be a treatment plan on how this will be accomplished, and the treatment needs to go with them to help them learn skills in a new environment. Helen said that this will free up some beds for individuals needing to leave Western State Hospital. The RSN is concerned because Medicaid will no longer pay for individuals who are not on Medicaid, nor for “non-Medicaid” services. King County will need to determine how to create funds for individuals without Medicaid coverage to receive the skills they are going to need. Michael Haan said that hopefully this system will get to a point where it does not depend on hospital care as much as it does now.

VI. LIAISON REPORTS

- **Downtown Emergency Service Center – Howard Miller**

Howard said that for the most part Downtown Emergency Service Center (DESC) continues to face a number of challenges, but seems to be resolving them. They are involved in private fundraising and their board has a plan to raise \$450,000 in private money in 2004. DESC is having to deal with some deficits. Their goals for the coming year include planning for growth, stability, and community relations and education.

- **Chronic Public Inebriates – James Nobles**

James Nobles was not present today.

- **Seattle Mental Health and Partnership Group – Helen Nilon**

Helen said that Seattle Mental Health (SMH) just opened an office in Snoqualmie. Seattle Mental Health’s census is stable and growing. They currently have a waitlist for non-Medicaid clients, given the limited dollars the RSN can allocate. The SMH Dangerous Mentally Ill Offender project is one of the selected projects on the PBS/Annie Casey website at <http://reentrymediaoutreach.org/>. SMH has received an award of excellence from the National Council for Community Behavioral Healthcare for their forensic co-occurring disorders services. Helen said that issue of moving clients out of supervised living and into supported housing was discussed at the Partnership meeting. Providers were very concerned about this, and felt that a 90-day turnaround was nearly impossible. The State is applying for a B3 waiver, which is an addition to the 1915B waiver. An advantage of the B3 waiver is that it allows us to put some things in the state plan that are not already in it, such as vocational services and Clubhouse. Helen said that Telesage, the new client satisfaction survey being required by the State, will not go into effect until the end of April. There are still some serious problems with the tool, as it is only available in English, and Spanish only by phone.

- **Therapeutic Health Services – Gwendolyn Williams**

Gwendolyn said that Therapeutic Health Services' (THS) methadone program in Everett has really taken off. The Everett community now seems to be accepting this program with open arms. A lot of individuals are coming to THS without Medicaid coverage, and THS has the dilemma of trying to figure out how to give them services without draining their programs. THS wants to put together a program that meets the needs of the Spanish speaking population.

VII. Board and Community Concerns / New Business

There were no issues brought forward by the public.

VIII. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 6:35 p.m.